Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-implemented~~ method to analyze a problem statement, the method comprising:

analyzing a problem statement based on a systematic set of predefined criteria to focus the problem statement in terms of an operational definition;

assigning a level indicator to the operational definition; [[and]]

selecting analysis techniques from a group of analysis techniques associated with Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, and Kaizen analysis techniques as a function of the assigned level indicator; and

analyzing the focused operational definition based on an integration of ~~Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, and Kaizen~~ the selected analysis techniques ~~corresponding with the level indicator~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising defining a multiple-day Six Sigma Kaizen schedule for the integration of Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, and Kaizen analysis techniques.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein defining the schedule comprises defining a five-day DMAIC schedule.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the multiple-day Six Sigma Kaizen schedule includes institutionalized standards and processes for a level II indicator.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the multiple-day Six Sigma Kaizen schedule includes defect appearance measurement systems and processes for a level III indicator.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the multiple-day Six Sigma Kaizen schedule includes defect origination process controls for a level IV indicator.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein analyzing the problem statement based on the systematic set of predefined criteria includes a computer graphically displaying a number of instructions to a user for gathering data and inputting data into the computer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein assigning the level indicator includes the computer automatically assigning the level indicator based on the data inputted into the computer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the computer instructing the analysis of the operational definition based on the level indicator.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein instructing the analysis of the operational definition includes the computer automatically generating a Six Sigma Kaizen schedule based on the level indicator.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the computer graphically displays the Six Sigma Kaizen schedule in a DMAIC format.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer configured with instructions for analyzing a problem statement, the computer including instructions for:

analyzing the problem statement based on a systematic set of predefined criteria to focus the problem statement in terms of an operational definition;

assigning a level indicator to the operational definition; [[and]]

selecting analysis techniques from a group of analysis techniques as a function of the assigned level indicator; and

analyzing the operational definition based on an integration of the selected analysis techniques the level indicator.

13. (Original) The computer of claim 12 including instructions for analyzing the operational definition based on an integration of Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, and Kaizen analysis techniques.

14. (Original) The computer of claim 13 wherein the integration instructions include instructions for defining a multiple-day Six Sigma Kaizen schedule.

15. (Original) The computer of claim 14 wherein the instructions for the multiple-day Six Sigma Kaizen schedule includes instructions for including institutionalized standards and processes for a level II indicator, instructions for including defect appearance measurement systems and processes for a level III indicator, and instructions for including defect origination process controls for a level IV indicator.

16. (Original) The computer of claim 12 wherein the instructions for analyzing the problem statement based on the systematic set of predefined criteria includes instructions for gathering data and inputting data into the computer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the computer automatically assigns the level indicator based on the data inputted into the computer.

18. (Original)The method of claim 17 wherein the computer further provides instructions for analyzing the operational definition based on the level indicator.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the computer automatically generates a Six Sigma Kaizen schedule based on the level indicator.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the computer graphically displays the Six Sigma Kaizen schedule in a DMAIC format.